

NEW AUBURN AREA FIRE DEPT., INC.
148 EAST ELM STREET
P. O. BOX 172
NEW AUBURN, WI 54757

April 9, 2007

Members of Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs
% Senator Spencer Coggs

RE: Senate Bill #50

Dear Members of Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs:

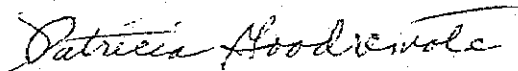
Please support Senate Bill #50, which would include language in Wisconsin State Statute 109.03(1) that would exempt volunteer fire departments from having to make at least monthly payments for services of their firemen.

Many of these payments are very minimal, which could for example be less than \$20 per month, and with a roster of 20-25 firemen this amounts to an excessive cost for payroll checks, bookkeeping, etc. for our department. Our operating funds are mainly from already overburdened taxpayers; therefore, we feel that as long as the firemen are agreeable to any less frequency of payment, this should be acceptable.

The Secretary and Treasurer of our fire corporation who take care of the finances, payroll work, etc. are paid quite minimally, which is as it should be, so our funds can and should be used mainly for fighting fires, first-responder services, etc., and not for administrative costs.

Thank you kindly for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Patricia Goodremote
Secretary

Chris Carlson, President/Director

Gary Pitts, Vice-President/Director

Orville Hoveland, Director

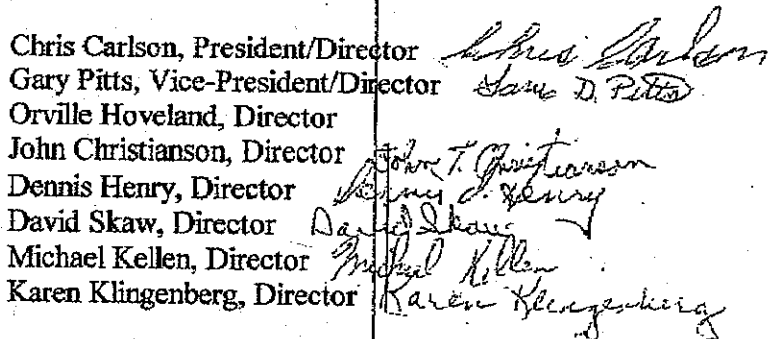
John Christianson, Director

Dennis Henry, Director

David Skaw, Director

Michael Kellen, Director

Karen Klingenberg, Director





**STATE SENATOR
PAT KREITLOW**

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs
From: Senator Kreitlow
Date: April 10, 2007
**Re: Testimony on SB 50, Relating to the Frequency of Wage Payments to
Volunteer Fire Fighters**

Good morning Chairperson Coggs and Members of the Committee, and thank you for holding a hearing on SB 50. This bill was drafted by Representative Wood and myself on behalf of the New Auburn Area Fire Department, a volunteer fire department, to allow a volunteer fire fighter to be paid semiannually or annually. This can only be done if both the volunteer fire fighter and the fire department employing him or her agree upon such a payment schedule.

Although most employees in the workforce are required to be paid at least monthly, there are exceptions under current law for logging, farm workers and school employees. SB 50 would provide a similar exception to volunteer firefighters. The New Auburn Area Fire Department had been utilizing the wage payment schedule provided by this bill before they were informed a change in statute would be required for them to continue the practice.

The benefits to the department include reduced administrative costs, and many fire fighters enjoy the single pay check as a "bonus" for their volunteer work for the year. Again, each individual volunteer fire fighter would have the option of this payment schedule.

Finally, the Assembly held a hearing on this bill last week and there was a request by the volunteer EMT's to be added to the bill. The Assembly voted to add EMT's and I have drafted a Senate Substitute Amendment to do the same.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on SB 50 today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.